

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, if anyone out there was worried that the Republican leadership of the House was straying from their extremist agenda, fear not, because the budget resolution coming to the House floor today is as extreme as they come.

First and foremost, the Republican budget resolution fails to protect Social Security, but it does not stop there. The budget resolution also cuts funding to educate our children, protect our environment, and provide adequate health care for working American families.

What is really upsetting about this Republican budget resolution is that these extreme cuts are not done in the name of fiscal responsibility or debt reduction. No, instead what Speaker Gingrich and the Republican leadership want to do is provide more tax breaks for the wealthy at the expense of American seniors, kids and working families.

The Republican budget resolution clearly demonstrates that the Speaker's priorities lay somewhere beyond the American working family. The Republican leadership has not learned any lessons since 1995, and we will see today that the Speaker will not even get the support of many of his own House Republicans, much less the American people.

A COMMON SENSE BUDGET

(Mr. DELAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, only the Democrats would call this budget extremist. Only the Democrats would say taking 1 percent out of a \$9 trillion spending spree by this government actually designed by them is extremist, one penny out of \$1.

The Kasich budget is a common sense document that mandates a smarter, more efficient government. It says that we in Washington should spend a little less so that the American working family can spend a little more to help them achieve their dreams.

Some Democrats find this burden to be unbearable. They say that we will not be able to find the savings. They say that we are extremist. They say we should not give working families tax relief.

I urge the opponents of this budget to justify their opposition to the American people. Tell them that you cannot save a penny on the dollar. Tell them that they do not deserve tax relief today. I urge my colleagues to support the common sense budget.

AN EXTREME BUDGET

(Mr. CARDIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, one of the proudest moments of this Congress is when Democrats and Republicans, the

Congress and the White House put aside their partisan differences and worked out a balanced budget. It not only balanced the Federal budget and brought us into surplus but has led to a very hot, growing economy.

Now the Republican budget would reject that bipartisan agreement and take us back to the extremism that led to the shutdown of our government. It would mean cuts up to 25 percent, not 1 percent, of many programs that we have in government.

Do not take my word for it. Senator DOMENICI said the Republican budget is a mockery. Senator STEVENS, chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations said, "I do not think Congress could function."

This is an extreme budget. For the sake of our veterans, for the sake of our students, for the sake of our seniors, for the sake of our taxpayers, let us, in a bipartisan manner, reject this extreme budget.

THE ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 1997

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, Congress wrote a massive energy bill in 1994 called the Energy Policy Act which outlined ways for the United States to address our Nation's vulnerable reliance on foreign oil.

Unfortunately, this statute has already run into trouble. The Department of Energy admits this in its own report to Congress stating, quote, "Despite the many uncertainties, it preliminarily appears that the programs authorized by Congress in EPACT will fall substantially short of the year 2010 goal of 30 percent displacement."

Mr. Speaker, the program does not work. I and the gentlewoman from Missouri (Ms. MCCARTHY) have introduced legislation to address this problem. Our legislation would allow fleet managers to use biodiesel blends to comply with the mandates of EPACT, without tax credits or incentives.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 2568, the Energy Policy Act of 1997.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Mr. KIND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud new parent of a baby boy born to Tawni and myself a week ago last Wednesday. Tawni and Matthew are doing very well at home right now. Matthew's older brother Johnny is also recovering from all the excitement.

I could not think of a better birthday present to give to Matthew and the other children around this country, as we resume debate this week on campaign finance reform, that this United States Congress enacts meaningful

campaign finance reform, reform that starts to get the big money and the influence of money out of this political process so that children like Matthew across the country, who want to grow up and serve in public service, do not have to be either independently wealthy or have to go out and raise a million dollars for the campaign. That, I think, would be a tremendous gift that we can give to the children in this country.

Matthew, happy birthday. I look forward to a very long and happy life as your and Johnny's father.

SUPPORT FOR RESTORATION OF FOOD STAMPS FOR LEGAL U.S. RESIDENTS

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today the House will likely vote on legislation which was passed overwhelmingly by the Senate to restore food stamps to thousands of disabled and elderly U.S. legal residents, as well as families with children, and they have entered this country legally, they pay their taxes and they abide by the law.

Since Congress unfairly ended food stamp benefits to U.S. legal residents, more than 900,000 taxpayers have lost their access to food stamps. Sixty-five percent of those affected are families with children. In my home State of Florida nearly 10 percent of the recipients lost eligibility, and most were families with kids. The funds for food stamps in this bill will only be directed to legal U.S. residents who were here before the benefits were terminated.

It is fitting that this great Nation, which gave these permanent residents a new opportunity, will now lend them a helping hand in their times of need after years of contributing to our country. I urge my colleagues to restore the benefits of food stamps to U.S. legal residents.

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VOTE AGAINST THE ISTOOK AMENDMENT

(Mr. EDWARDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EDWARDS. Parents, beware, Mr. Speaker. If the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. ISTOOK) in the next 5 hours is successful in beginning the process to amend the Bill of Rights for the first time in our Nation's history, public schools across America will begin to look like public airports, where religious groups, cults and fanatics can go to our public school grounds and try to convert small children to their particular religious beliefs.

I do not think the parents of America want to send their children to school to be proselytized. They send their children to school to be educated.